**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program**

**Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, June 6, 2019 @ 1 p.m.**

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program – Salmon, Idaho**

**Present:** Daniel Bertram (USBWP), Abbie Gongloff (USBWP), Mike Edmondson (OSC), Chris Gaughan (USBWP), Windy Schoby (IDFG), Mike Overacker (NGO), Todd Blythe (USBWP), Linda Price (BLM), Harley Wallis (Pahsimeroi Landowner), Steve Stringham (Recreation), Kelly Schade (SCNF), Bruce Mulkey (Lemhi Landowner), V. Don Olson (Lemhi Landowner), Mike Kossler (LSWCD), Paddy Murphy (IDFG), Rosana Rieth (NRCS), Cindy Salo (Private Citizen).

**Welcome and Introductions**

**February 8, 2019 Meeting Notes:** Approved meeting notes.

**Presentations:**

* None.

**New Business**

* During the Andrus Center Conference on Energy and Salmon, Governor Little established a Salmon Working Group to be led by OSC. This will be an advisory group tasked with developing ideas leading to abundant future returns of Salmon in Idaho. The first meeting this summer (6/28/2019) will be a listening session. It is expected that the group will create a framework and timeline for future meetings during this first session.
* IDWR (Amy Cassel) updated the Advisory Committee on the Leadore water right applications. Kurt Bird’s application was the first to hit the papers and received 11 protests. Bird would like to install 2 new pivots with large nozzles to disperse large amounts of water over a short period of time. A pre-hearing was held, and the protest hearing is scheduled for August 27-28. A total of 5 applications are advertised and 5 more applications will be advertised this week. The question was asked “If the Lemhi is totally appropriated where is there room for more water rights to be deeded?” Cassel answered; High water practice is acceptable in the Lemhi but not appropriated. It is estimated that on bad water years there will be 4-5 days of excess water and on good years up to 45 days. The Idaho Water Resources Board is concerned that transacted water for reconnects such as Big Timber Creek could once again be dewatered if these new water rights are used, particularly on the shoulder seasons.

**Tech Team Update**

* The SB-Tribe presented an update to the TT on the Panther Creek Proposal. The TT is planning to visit the Panther Creek sites during the August campout meeting. There were three project rankings last month. Subcommittees met. There are new landowner opportunities. Project sponsors are ramping up project work during the summer work windows. The ACOE asked the TT to keep them updated and aware of upcoming projects. Tree acquisition work is ongoing. Stokes Ranch Phase 1 work is completed and ready for a high-water event if we get one this spring. Phase 1 was bank roughening and supersacks, Phase 2 will include side channel habitat work.

**USBWP project updates**

Presentations by USBWP staff on upcoming projects included:

* Lower Lemhi Reference Reach – One-mile section on a reach of the Lemhi thought to be in good functioning condition with active floodplains and riparian habitat. However, the river is migrating to the west into private property without riparian vegetation. This project which is in the design phase is aiming to keep the reach in healthy functioning condition which will conserve the good habitat, protect private property, create new habitat, and allow for dynamic river behavior.
* Hayden Creek Hermits – This project aims to improve instream habitat and floodplain connection. Hayden Creek is a primary production area for Salmon but lacks habitat complexity. USBWP and TU are in a design phase and planning to add wood structures to add heterogeneity to the system.
* Hawley-Eighteenmile junction – This project aims to realign the stream channel to add habitat complexity and reduce or remove pivot crossings. Concerns over temperature and sedimentation on this section will be addressed.
* Lemhi Beyeler – This is a 2.5-mile section of the upper Lemhi River which is a high priority for Salmon. It is currently a single channel with little slow water refugia and is thought to have had multiple braided channels and an active floodplain in the past. The project is in design phase and aims to benefit all life stages of Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. The project will enhance habitat and maximize immediate habitat benefits while working towards long-term recovery. Methods will include planting riparian vegetation, browse exclusion, channel narrowing, island braiding, side channels, and BDA’s.
* Beyeler Canyon Creek – This project is in the early concept phase and has been awarded IDEQ 319 grant funds. The goal is to remove 12 pivot crossings and 1 vehicle ford to reduce sedimentation, add riparian vegetation, and create sinuosity and habitat complexity instream.
* Playfair Irrigation and Highway 28 Culvert – This project is in the design phase. The objectives are to replace an undersized culvert with a natural bed open bottom culvert, remove an irrigation diversion which is a fish passage barrier, build an irrigation system which will leave more water in Little Sawmill Creek, and fence and plant willows on the lower end of Little Sawmill Creek to reestablish riparian habitat function.
* Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) in Lemhi and Custer Counties – This is an ongoing project utilizing BDA’s as a method to repair riparian function on tributary creeks. USBWP is working with the Salmon BLM on a 5 year permit for Lemhi tributaries and with IDFG on a Pahsimeroi tributary. The Challis BLM and the Challis Experimental Range Tour is planning to visit the Sulphur Creek BDA’s on August 22, 2019. All are welcome to join.

**BLM update**

* Seasonal employees are starting, the forester is working with Jeff DiLuccia on sourcing local wood for habitat projects. Chad Zens is the new lands employee and would like to get a drone license. The Challis Field manager position is open.

**SCNF update**

* Forest Plan Revision Standards, Guidelines, and Desired Future Conditions are moving forward. The team is identifying potential future problems and how the Forest Plan can help solve those.
* The Lemhi BiOp is close to complete. Looking to submit to USFWS and NOAA in July.
* Upper Salmon BiOp will be next

**IDFG Update**

* Chinook return numbers are low and IDFG will struggle to make brood stock this year.

**Harley Wallis**

* Pivot end guns are a waste of water.

**NRCS**

* Preproposal for targeted restoration and flow enhancement dollars was approved and moving forward to a full proposal in July.

**LSWCD**

* Need to keep on top of the high-water issue

**UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon**

* No update.

**Lemhi Regional Land Trust**

* The annual Land Trust BBQ is June 28

**Recreation**

* Outfitters are filling up trips and it should be a good river season.

**Adjourn**

***The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2019.***

**Commonly used Acronyms:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25/35 | Minimum flows required at L-6 |
| ACEP | Agricultural Conservation Easement Program |
| AEM | Action Effectiveness Monitoring |
| AFS | American Fisheries Society |
| ANS | Aquatic Nuisance Species |
| AREMP | Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program |
| BA | Biological Assessment |
| BACI | Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type) |
| BEF | Bonneville Environmental Foundation |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMS | Beaver Mimicry Structure |
| BO/BiOp | Biological Opinion |
| BPA | Bonneville Power Administration |
| CHaMP | Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program |
| CMZ | Channel Migration Zone |
| CREP | Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program |
| CRSO | Columbia River System Operations |
| CSWCD | Custer Soil and Water Conservation District |
| CWT | Coded Wire Tags |
| DEQ | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality |
| DPS | Distinct Population Segment |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| ELJ | Engineered Log Jam |
| EQIP | Environmental Quality Incentives Program |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ESU | Evolutionarily Significant Unit |
| FCRPS | Federal Columbia River Power System |
| FIA | Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS) |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| Four “H”s | The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GM | Geometric Mean |
| HACCP | Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point |
| HGMP | Hatchery Genetic Management Plan |
| HPA | Hydraulic Project Approval |
| HSRG | Hatchery Scientific Review Group |
| IDFG | Idaho Department of Fish and Game |
| IDWR | Idaho Department of Water Resources |
| IMW | Intensively Monitored Watershed |
| IS | Implementation Schedule |
| ISEMP | Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project |
| ISRP | Independent Scientific Review Panel |
| IT | Implementation Team |
| L-x | L- "fill in the blank" refers to any Lemhi River Diversion e.g. L-63 |
| IWRB | Idaho Water Resource Board |
| LRBM | Lemhi River Basin Model (Mike Basin Model for the Lemhi) |
| LRLT | Lemhi Regional Land Trust |
| LSWCD | Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District |
| LW/LWD | Large Wood/Large Woody Debris |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPG | Major Population Group |
| NFF | National Forest Foundation |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NPCC | Northwest Power and Conservation Council |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| OSC | Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation |
| P-x | P- "fill in the blank" refers to any Pahsimeroi River Diversion e.g. P-16 |
| PCSRF | Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund |
| PHABSIM | Physical Habitat Simulation |
| PIBO | PACFISH/INFISH\* Biological Opinion |
| PIT Tag | Passive Integrated Transponder Tag |
| PNAMP | Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership |
| QAQC | Quality Assurance, Quality Control |
| QRF | Quantile Regression Forests |
| RA | Reach Assessment |
| RFP | Request for Proposals |
| RM | River Mile |
| RM&E | Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| RPA | Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s) |
| S-x | S- "fill in the blank" refers to any Salmon River Diversion e.g. S-22 |
| SBT | Shoshone-Bannock Tribes |
| SNRA | Sawtooth National Recreation Area |
| SOW | Statement of Work |
| STEM Database | Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center |
| TA | Tributary Assessment |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| TRM&E | Tributary Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| TRT | Technical Recovery Team (NOAA) |
| TT | USBWP Technical Team |
| TU | Trout Unlimited |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USBR | Bureau of Reclamation |
| USBWP | Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USFS | US Forest Service |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | US Geological Survey |
| VSP | Viable Salmonid Population |
| WAC | USBWP Advisory Committee |
| WAG | DEQ Watershed Advisory Group |
| WRP | Wetland Reserve Program |
| \*PACFISH/ INFISH | The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin. |